

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLO, LE, MOPS
SUBJ: PLO NEWSPAPER COMMENTS ON LEBANESE ARMY AND U.S.
MILITARY MISSION

1. UNDER THE HEADLINE "NO, TO THE ARMY WHICH IS LED
BY OFFICERS LIKE HADDAD AND BARAKAT," THE PLO'S
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FALASTIN AL THAWRA REPORTED ON APRIL 5
THAT DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER BOUTROS HAD MET
WITH ARMY COMMANDER VICTOR KHOURY TO DISCUSS SENDING
LEBANESE FORCES TO SOUTH LEBANON. ACCORDING TO FALASTIN AL
THAWRA:

2. "FACING THIS NEWS AND EFFORTS MADE BY BOUTROS AND HIS
COMMAND IN WHAT IS CALLED THE LEBANESE ARMY, THE
LEBANESE CITIZEN STANDS PERPLEXED BEFORE THE BASIS AND
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BALANCE UPON WHICH THE LEBANESE ARMY IS BUILT.

3. "WHAT KIND OF AN ARMY IS IT WHICH INCLUDES IN ITS
COMMAND PEOPLE LIKE ANTOINE BARAKAT, SA'D HADDAD, FRANCIS
RIZQ AND TENS OF TRAITOR OFFICERS WHO ARE AGENTS OF ISRAEL?
THE 'REGULAR' FORCES WHICH ARE TO BE SENT TO THE SOUTH
ARE THEY NOT TO SUPPORT SA'D HADDAD AND THE 'ARMY OF THE

SOUTH' WHICH WAS FORMED AND ARMED BY ISRAEL?

4. "THE VISIT OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY MISSION TO LEBANON, WHICH WILL MEET WITH BOUTROS AND WITH THE MILITARY COMMANDERS OF THE 'LEBANESE ARMY,' IS OF COURSE NOT COINCIDENTAL. THE PENTAGON HEADQUARTERS WOULD NOT HAVE SHOWN THIS INTEREST IN SUPPORTING AND REBUILDING MILITARY POWER FOR THE REGIME, HAD THEY NOT REALIZED THE NATURE OF THIS FORCE AND THE 'GREAT' SERVICES WHICH WOULD BE RENDERED IN THE FUTURE TO THE AMERICAN IMPERIALIST POLICY IN LEBANON AND IN THE ARAB AREA.

5. "LEBANESE PATRIOTS AND ALL HONEST PEOPLE, WHO HAVE THE INTEREST OF THE LEBANESE PEOPLE AT HEART, WILL NOT PERMIT THESE PRACTICES, WHICH EXPRESS THE PROJECT AND PLANNINGS DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE MORE ANNEXATION BY AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND THEIR INTERESTS, AND SHOW ENMITY TO THE NATIONAL CAUSE OF LEBANON AND TO THEIR ALLIES THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE."

6. COMMENT: THE ARTICLE REFLECTS PALESTINIAN FEARS THAT LEBANESE ARMY WILL BE SENT TO THE SOUTH TO FIGHT THE FADAYEEN, AND THAT THE U.S. IS SUPPLYING MILITARY AID TO THIS END. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE END OF THE 1975/76 CIVIL WAR THAT FALASTIN AL THAWRE HAS COMMENTED ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE LEBANESE ARMY OR ON AMERICAN MILITARY AID. THE ARTICLE IS ANOTHER INDICATION OF INCREASING PALESTINIAN CONCERN WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEBANESE DOMESTIC POLITICS SINCE THE SADAT INITIATIVE. END
COMMENT PARKER

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